

LIVESTOCK STATISTICS, YEAR 1925.

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Report of the Government Statist upon the count of the Flocks and Herds of the State as at 31st December 1925 or thereabouts.

The Divisional Meteorologist in commenting upon the weather in this State for the year 1925 says that severe drought conditions were experienced in the far north and north west interior, it being very dry throughout the Pastoral country. The rainfall with few exceptions was below the average even in the settled County areas. A few places in the Upper North experienced the driest year on record.

In view of such an unfavorable review, it is not surprising that the Cattle Herds of the State decreased by 25,888 and Horses by 9,891. It is specially gratifying, however, to be able to record increases of 449,375 in the Sheep Flocks and 10,212 in Pigs.

The following are the particulars for the year ended December 31st 1925 or thereabouts in comparison with December 31st 1924--

CATTLE. All kinds 374,535 (400,423) decrease 25,888. The mortality records show a loss of no less than 22,250 head of Cattle in the far northern areas beyond Counties. Dairying Cattle 136,749 (145,404) decrease 8,655. Cows in milk 90,394 (92,810) Dry 37,612 (40,809), Heifers Springing 8,743 (11,785). In addition there were 1,408 (18,003) other Heifers 1 year and over which are not included in the Dairying total but which are possible additions to the Dairying herds.

HORSES. 245,131 (255,022) decrease 9,891. These are classified as follows - Mares and fillies 116,418 (117,376), Colts and geldings 118,435 (124,637), Under 1 year old 9,215 (11,776) and Stallions 1,063 (1,233). The mortality losses on the Far Northern stations are given as 6,122.

SHEEP. 6,808,615 (6,359,240) increase 449,375. These were classified as follows - Ewes 3,390,232 (3,179,314) increase 210,918; Others 1,762,448 (1,653,856) increase 108,592; Rams 90,161 (79,805) increase 10,356; Under 1 year old 1,565,774 (1,446,265) increase 119,509.

LAMBING 1925. During the year 1925, 2,685,686 (2,600,089) ewes were mated and 1,707,967 (1,623,945) Lambs marked equal to a percentage of 63.6 compared with 62.46 for the previous year. The number of lambs marked is the highest since 1917-18 when 2,345,520 ewes were mated and 1,711,580 Lambs marked giving 72.97%.

WINTER LAMBING 1926. 2,778,481 Ewes were reported as either mated or intended to be mated for the Winter Lambing of 1926. The percentage results are now being ascertained and will be available later in the month.

TOP-DRESSED PASTURE LANDS. There was an increase during the year of 52,848 acres in the area top-dressed and of 3,415 tons in the manure used. The respective totals were - 119,972 (67,124) acres, increase 52,848 acres; Manure used 7,495 (4,080) tons, increase 3,415 tons.

PIGS. 91,200 (80,988) increase 10,212. Ages - 71,290 (60,867) under 1 year and 19,910 (20,121) 1 year and over.

ALL OTHER STOCK. Goats - Angora 1,548. Other 4,261, Total 5,809. Camels 3,008. Mules 815. Donkeys 3,266.

INTERSTATE MOVEMENT BY LAND OF STOCK. The State gained 10,502 Sheep and 48,440 head of Cattle and lost 1,106 Horses by transit of Stock by land from and to the other States.

SLAUGHTERING. The slaughtering was greater than the previous year due in the case of Sheep to slaughtering for Export. Sheep 1,025,907 (933,426) increase 92,481, for Export 70,866 (13,079); Cattle 16,651 (155,050) increase 14601; Pigs 112,538 (107,829) increase 4,709.